



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/815,285

03/31/2004

Ezra Jacques Elie Eric Setton

80398P593

8350

8791

7590

02/01/2008

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY

SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

HOLDER, ANNER N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/01/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/815,285		SETTON ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Anner Holder		2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/06/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 21 refers to a method not an article of manufacturing as presented in claim 33. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 23-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim language does not comply with the requirements of MPEP 2106.01 I and is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows. Claims 62-74 and 82 defines a computer program product embodying functional descriptive material. However, the claim does not define a computer-readable medium or computer-readable memory and is thus non-statutory for that reason (i.e., "When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized" - MPEP 2106.01 I). The scope of the presently claimed invention encompasses products that are not necessarily computer readable, and thus NOT able to impart any functionality of the recited program.

Note:

A "signal" (or equivalent) embodying functional descriptive material is neither a process nor a product (i.e., a tangible "thing") and therefore does not fall within one of the four statutory

classes of § 101. Rather, “signal” is a form of energy, in the absence of any physical structure or tangible material.

Should the full scope of the claim as properly read in light of the disclosure encompass non-statutory subject matter such as a “signal”, the claim as a whole would be non-statutory.

The examiner suggests amending the claim(s) to embody the computer program on “computer-readable medium” and deleting in the specification all sections defining or equivalent, the computer readable medium as a “signal”, “carrier wave”, “transmission medium”, or “paper” which are deemed non-statutory (refer to “note” Above). Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-19, 21, 23-30, 32, and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Apostolopoulos US 7,103,669 B2.

6. As to claim 1, Apostolopoulos teaches a receiver to receive a default stream and N restart sub-streams from a transmitter over a transmission path, N being an integer equal to at least 1 and selected according to a selection, the default stream being coded by a multiple description (MD) coding, the N restart sub-streams being coded by a predictive coding and sampled according to a sampling pattern, the default and N restart sub-streams corresponding to a media content; [Abstract; Figs. 1-5; Figs. 7; Fig. 11; Col. 9 line 40-46; Col. 3 lines 48-62; Col. 5 lines

50-56; Col. 7 lines 30-58; Col. 7 line 66 – Col. 8 line 4; Col. 11 lines 65 – Col. 12 line 29; Col. 13 lines 59-60] and a selector coupled to the receiver to select a receiving frame from the default stream and one of the N restart sub-streams according to a loss status in the default stream. [Col. 7 lines 9-37]

7. As to claim 2, Apostolopoulos teaches a decoder to decode the receiving frame. [Abstract; Figs.1-3; Fig. 9; Fig. 11; Col. 4 lines 5-9; Col. 6 lines 17-20; Col. 7 lines 9-37; Col. 10 lines 42-51; Col. 12 line 66 - Col. 13 line 5; Col. 13 lines 23-29]

8. As to claim 3, Apostolopoulos teaches the selector selects the receiving frame from the one of the N restart sub-streams when the loss status indicates there is a lost frame in the default stream. [Col. 7 lines 9-37; Col. 11 line 65 - Col. 12 line 29]

9. As to claim 4, Apostolopoulos teaches the selector selects the receiving frame from one of the N restart sub-streams, the selected receiving frame being nearest to the lost frame and belonging to same description as the lost frame. [Fig. 5; Col. 10 line 52 – Col. 11 line 3; Fig. 6; Col. 11 line 65 – Col. 12 line 29; Col. 13 lines 57-60; Col. 14 lines 6-11]

10. As to claim 5, Apostolopoulos teaches the selector selects the default stream when the loss status indicates there is no lost frame in the default stream. [Col. 14 lines 6-11; Col. 13 lines 23-29]

11. As to claim 6, Apostolopoulos teaches the selector selects the default stream after the receiving frame from the one of the N restart sub-stream is selected. [Col. 14 lines 6-11; Col. 13 lines 23-29]

12. As to claim 7, Apostolopoulos teaches the selection is based on at least one of bandwidth and loss rate of the transmission path. [Abstract;

13. As to claim 8, Apostolopoulos teaches the sampling pattern is a non-overlapping pattern or having frames from each description of the MD coding. [Col. 4 lines 10-36; Col. 6 line 53 – Col. 7 line 8; Col. 7 line 39-52]

14. As to claim 10, Apostolopoulos teaches a transmitter to transmit a default stream and N restart sub-streams to a plurality of receivers over a plurality of transmission paths, N being an integer equal to at least 1 and selected according to a selection at the receivers, the default stream being coded by a multiple description (MD) coding, the N restart sub-streams being coded by a predictive coding and sampled according to a sampling pattern, the default and N restart sub-streams corresponding to a media content. [Abstract; Figs. 1-5; Figs. 7; Fig. 11; Col. 9 line 40-46; Col. 3 lines 48-62; Col. 5 lines 50-56; Col. 7 lines 30-58; Col. 7 line 66 – Col. 8 line 4; Col. 11 lines 65 – Col. 12 line 29; Col. 13 lines 59-60]

15. As to claim 12, see rejection of claim 1 above.

16. As to claim 13, see rejection of claim 2 above.

17. As to claim 14, see rejection of claim 3 above.

18. As to claim 15, see rejection of claim 4 above.

19. As to claim 16, see rejection of claim 5 above.

20. As to claim 17, see rejection of claim 6 above.

21. As to claim 18, see rejection of claim 7 above.

22. As to claim 19, see rejection of claim 8 above.

23. As to claim 23, see rejection of claim 1 above.

24. As to claim 24, see rejection of claim 2 above.

25. As to claim 25, see rejection of claim 3 above.

- 26. As to claim 26, see rejection of claim 4 above.
- 27. As to claim 27, see rejection of claim 5 above.
- 28. As to claim 28, see rejection of claim 1 above.
- 29. As to claim 29, see rejection of claim 6 above.
- 30. As to claim 30, see rejection of claim 8 above.
- 31. As to claim 32, see rejection of claim 10 above.
- 32. As to claim 34, see rejection of claim 1 above.
- 33. As to claim 35, see rejection of claim 2 above.
- 34. As to claim 36, see rejection of claim 3 above.
- 35. As to claim 37, see rejection of claim 4 above.
- 36. As to claim 38, see rejection of claim 5 above.
- 37. As to claim 39, see rejection of claim 10 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 38. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 39. Claims 9, 11, 20, 22, 31, 33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolopoulos US 7,103,669 B2 in view of Caglar et al. (Caglar) US 2006/0146934 A1.
- 40. As to claim 9, Apostolopoulos teaches limitations of claim 1.

Apostolopoulos does not specifically teach layered representation of the frames according to an encoding rate.

Caglar teaches layered representation of the frames according to an encoding rate. [Figs. 4-9; ¶ 0035; ¶ 0036; ¶ 0039; ¶ 0041-0044; ¶ 0046]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the layered encoding methods of Caglar with the device of Apostolopoulos, allowing for improvements in image quality.

41. As to claim 11, Apostolopoulos teaches the limitations of claim 10.

Apostolopoulos does not specifically teach layered representation of the frames according to an encoding rate.

Caglar teaches layered representation of the frames according to an encoding rate. [Figs. 4-9; ¶ 0035; ¶ 0036; ¶ 0039; ¶ 0041-0044; ¶ 0046]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the layered encoding methods of Caglar with the device of Apostolopoulos, allowing for improvements in image quality.

42. As to claim 20, see rejection of claim 9 above.

43. As to claim 31, see rejection of claim 9 above.

44. As to claim 33, see rejection of claim 9 above.

45. As to claim 40, see rejection of claim 11 above.

Conclusion

46. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anner Holder whose telephone number is 571-270-1549. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, M-F 8 am - 3 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ANH 01/24/08


TUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER